Uri-Chakoti, Uri-Hajipur, Poonch-Rawalakot, and Mendhar-Tattapani to assist the earthaquake affected people of PoK/Pakistan.

India has provided substantial quantities of relief material to Pakistan in the aftermath of the October 8,2005 earthquake. India has announced an aid package of US $ 25 million for Pakistan. About 1,300 tonnes of relief material have been handed over to Pakistan authorities.

Raising of battalions of CRPF

*15. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a programme for raising 60 battalions of CRPF in the near future;

(b) if so, in view of the Maoist-Leninist incursion into northern and central Orissa, is it being contemplated to open at least one Group CRPF Centre in Orissa; and

(c) whether considering the availability of infrastructure at the defunct FCI Talcher and its strategic location next door to the activities of Maoist-Leninist, will Government consider opening a Group CRPF Centre by raising 3 additional battalions in Orissa at that place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Government approval for raising 64 battalions of CRPF, in a phased manner, was accorded in November, 2000. Sanction for 54 battalions has already been issued.

(b) Deployment of CRPF battalions is done considering availability and requirement of States as per the law and order situation at a particular point of time. A Group Centre is sanctioned for every 5 battalion and its location is decided on the basis of administrative requirements. Accordingly, locations of the Group Centres for additional battalions have been approved.

(c) CRPF battalions are raised on an all-India basis, with special weightage to recruitment from extremists affected areas. There is already one Group Centre at Bhubaneswar, Orissa. There is no further proposal to open a Group Centre in the State.